



## *USAF Dental Evaluation & Consultation Service*

### **OSAP CORE DENTAL INFECTION CONTROL BOOT CAMP**

The United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine (USAFSAM) Dental Investigation Service developed and implemented the USAF Dental Infection Control and Occupational Health and Safety Course in 1994 and conducted it for six consecutive years through 1999. This course was designed to assure compliance with the policies and program objectives required by federal agency standards for infection control and employee protection, including CFR 1910.1030, Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens.

In 2001, USAFSAM contacted the Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP) for its expertise in dental infection control and wrote a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to co-sponsor the course. OSAP was organized in 1984 by a group of academicians, healthcare practitioners and industry representatives concerned about the standards and practices of dental infection control. OSAP emphasizes solving both complex problems and practical issues facing dental healthcare workers today. USAFSAM concluded that the synergy between the two organizations would result in the most comprehensive dental infection control and occupational health/safety program available in the U.S.

The co-sponsored course provided essential training and guidance to appointed dental infection control OICs and NCOICs to develop their local programs and allowed for the opportunity to exchange vital ideas that could not be accomplished through other means. The object of the annual conference was to provide the latest information on the implementation and management of effective infection control and occupational health and safety programs for dental clinics. Information on infectious diseases and occupational risks associated with dentistry was emphasized. While military dental personnel assigned responsibilities in infection control and occupational health/safety were the principal target audience, the course was also applicable for large civilian dental practices, Health Maintenance Organizations, dental insurers, dental manufacturer sales staff, dental infection control consultants and dental school instructors.

OSAP collaborated with the Air Force and other US Federal Dental Services for 11 years under the MOU. Then in 2012, the Department of Defense had financial cutbacks and the Air Force was no longer able to officially co-sponsor the course. Despite this, the Air Force and other Federal Services have continued to endorse the course. This course, now titled the OSAP CORE Dental Infection Control Boot Camp, has been approved as a training exemption by the SAF/AA and is considered mission critical for members to attend. All members must be locally funded to participate in this training event.

The next OSAP CORE Dental Infection Control Boot Camp is scheduled for January 11-14, 2016 in Atlanta, GA. The course will feature speakers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), leading dental schools, the Air Force and other Federal Services. There will be lectures, hands-on training, a vendor fair and special breakouts for the Air Force and other Federal Services. More details are posted at <http://www.osap.org/?page=2016BootCamp> .